

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of amended claims is provided in the format established under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173:

Listing of Claims:

45. (Seven Times Amended) A knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade pivotally coupled to the handle to be moveable about a rotation axis that extends through a blade pivot point, such that the blade moves between a stowed position and a deployed position, the blade including a tang having a portion thereof projecting beyond the handle for engagement by a finger of a user when the blade is in the stowed position; and

a spring assembly operatively coupled between the handle and the blade to act on the blade to urge the blade toward the deployed position when the blade is moved by an external force from the stowed position toward the deployed position at least past a transition position, wherein the blade is not urged toward the deployed position when the blade is between the stowed position and the transition position, the spring assembly positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force on the blade at a point such that the first force extends through said point in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis to form a first moment about the rotation axis while the blade is positioned between the transition position and the deployed position, for biasing the blade towards the deployed position.

52. (Four Times Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, between a retracted position and an extended position;

a spring operatively coupled between the handle and the blade for holding the blade in the retracted position while the blade is in the retracted position and for biasing the blade toward the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, wherein the blade is not biased toward the

extended position when the blade is between the retracted position and the transition position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force on the blade at a point such that the first force extends through said point in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is in the retracted position to form a moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the retracted position; and

pressing means for a user to manually move the blade from the retracted position to a location past the transition position with one hand while holding the knife with the same one hand, the pressing means extending from the blade of the knife.

54. (Canceled)

58. (Four Times Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin coupled to the blade and extending outward from the blade, positioned such that a user can apply an opening force to the contact pin; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly having a first end connected to the handle remote from the rotation axis and a second end proximate the rotation axis to act on the blade, the second end of the biasing assembly configured to apply an opening force to the blade to bias the blade toward the extended position after the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position between the retracted position and the extended position, wherein the blade is not biased toward the extended position when the blade is between the retracted position and the transition position, the second end of the biasing assembly moving away from a back of the handle towards a front of the handle as the blade moves beyond the transition position towards the extended position and the opening force being applied at a location radially offset from the rotation axis and in a direction offset from the rotation axis to create a moment about the rotation axis.

60. (Canceled)

62. (Four Times Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, positioned such that a user can apply an opening force to the contact pin; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly operatively coupled to the handle and configured to apply a closing force on the blade while the blade is in the retracted position and to act on the blade to bias the blade toward the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, wherein the blade is not biased toward the extended position when the blade is between the retracted position and the transition position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force to the blade at a point such that the first force extends through said point in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is positioned between the transition position and the extended position to form a moment about the rotation axis to bias the blade towards the extended position.

63. (Thrice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, extending perpendicular to a plane of travel of the blade and positioned such that a user can apply an opening force to the blade; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly coupled to and positioned within the handle to act on the blade and configured to resist rotation of the blade toward the extended position while the blade is in the retracted position and to bias the blade

toward the extended position after the blade is manually moved from the retracted position past a transition position, wherein the blade is not biased toward the extended position when the blade is between the retracted position and the transition position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a force on the blade at a point such that the force extends through said point in a direction offset from the rotation axis to form a moment about the rotation axis to bias the blade away from the retracted position and towards the extended position when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

66. (Twice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, the contact pin extending perpendicular to a plane of travel of the blade and positioned such that a user can apply an opening force to the contact pin;
and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the spring operatively coupled between the handle and the blade and configured to resist rotation of the blade toward the extended position while the blade is in the retracted position and to bias the blade towards the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, wherein the blade is not biased toward the extended position when the blade is between the retracted position and the transition position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, so as to apply a first force on the blade at a first point such that the first force extends through said first point in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is in the retracted position to form a moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the retracted position and to apply a second force on the blade at a second point such that the second force extends through said second point in a second direction that is offset from the rotation axis to form a second moment about the rotation axis to bias the blade towards the extended position when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

67. (Amended) The knife of claim 45 wherein the spring assembly is positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a second force on the blade at a second point such that the second force extends through said second point in a second direction that, when the blade is in the stowed position, is offset from the rotation axis to form a second moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the stowed position.

69. (Amended) The folding knife of claim 52 wherein the spring is positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a second force on the blade at a second point such that the second force extends through said second point in a second direction that is offset from the rotation axis to form a second moment about the rotation axis when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

71. (Canceled)

73. (Canceled)